

Sent to Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Thomas Moorer

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of February 7. After careful consideration, I feel that I must resign my commission in the United States Naval Reserve. This action is not being taken to absolve myself of a fulfillment of duty; indeed, it would have been easier to remain silent and let events take their protracted course. My intention is to express my dissatisfaction with the handling of the situation in Southeast Asia by the U.S. government.

Armed conflict is sometimes justified; small unit tactics and individual actions are hard to evaluate from a distance. What I am observing are the origins and results of over a decade of war. That an essentially independent country should be so desecrated and permanently scarred by outside interference, especially after restoration of a seemingly just and workable political organization, to me is inexcusable. To procrastinate now in settlement is only further compounding the wrongdoing. Therefore, I cannot in any way support the United States government in this matter, and would urge all Americans to inform themselves of the situation, decide for themselves, and act accordingly.

Sincerely,

JOHN WILLIAM TAYLOR

*Se + to CNO
Deputy Defense
Wash., D.C.
on 17 Feb
all mistakes
corrected
& signed.*